

GONORRHEA

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted bacterial disease (STD) caused by *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. In males, it is usually characterized by a purulent urethral discharge and dysuria. In females, initially there is a urethritis or cervicitis often so mild it may pass unnoticed. Depending upon sexual practices, pharyngeal and anorectal infections can occur. In males, the urethral infection is usually self-limiting; however, it may progress to epididymitis, and in rare cases, it can disseminate into an arthritis-dermatitis syndrome, endocarditis, and meningitis. Twenty percent of women infected with gonorrhea may progress to uterine infection, which may lead to endometritis or salpingitis (PID-Pelvic Inflammatory Disease) and the subsequent risk of infertility.

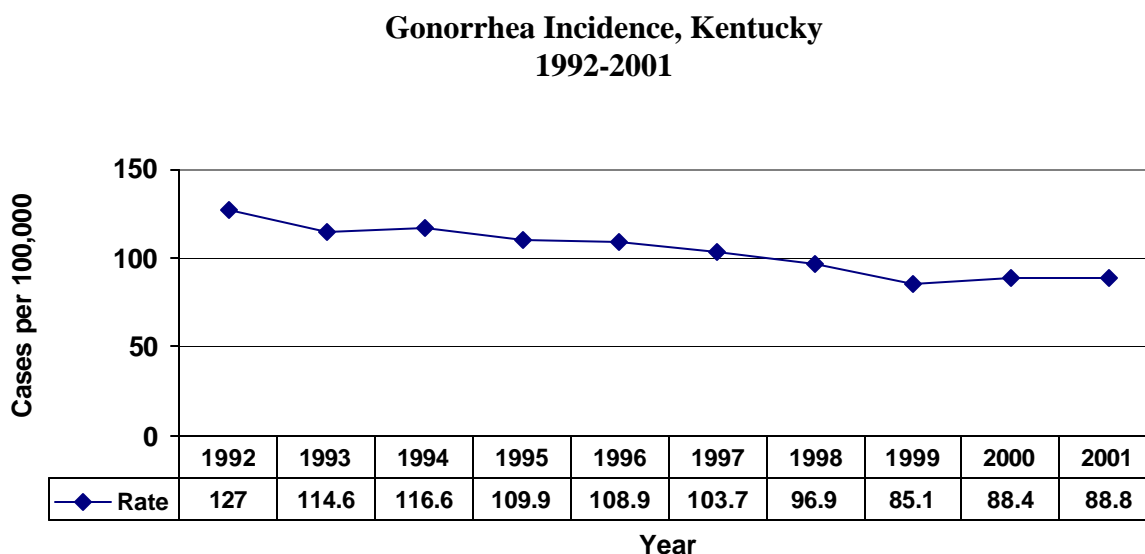
Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- ?? Isolation of typical Gram-negative, oxidase-positive diplococci (presumptive *N. gonorrhoeae*) from clinical specimen, **OR**
- ?? Demonstration of *N. gonorrhoeae* in a clinical specimen by detection of antigen or nucleic acid, **OR**
- ?? Observation of Gram-negative intracellular diplococci in a urethral smear from a man.

Case Classification

Confirmed: A case that is laboratory confirmed.

Probable: a) Demonstration of gram-negative intracellular diplococci in an endocervical smear obtained from a female or b) a written morbidity report of gonorrhea submitted by a physician.



Epidemiology

Kentucky	2001	Rate per 100,000	U.S. Rate (2000) per 100,000
Cases	3588	88.8	131.65

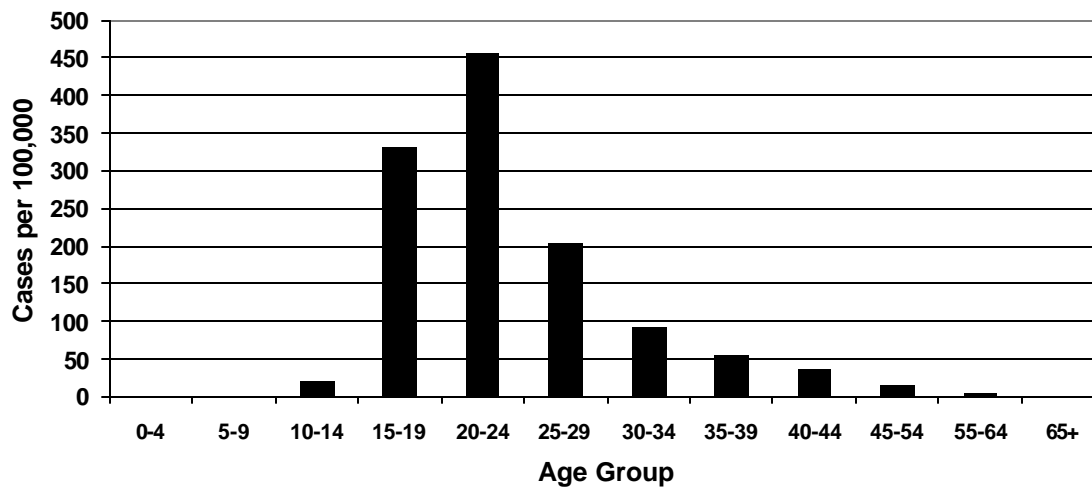
Cases by Gender

Female	1812	87.7
Male	1769	89.6

Gender not specified on seven cases.

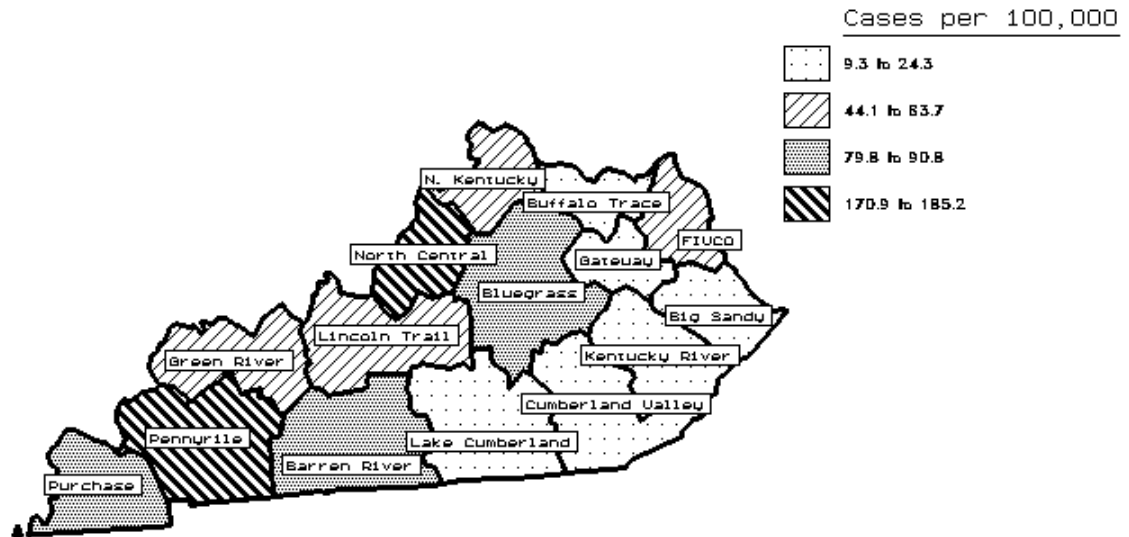
The highest incidence of gonorrhea by race was 647 cases per 100,000 in the African-American group. The Hispanic rate was 60 cases per 100,000, followed by the Asian rate at 24 cases per 100,000 and the Caucasian group at 20 cases per 100,000. Race was not specified on 23% of the reports.

**Gonorrhea, Age-Specific Incidence, Kentucky
2001**



The 20-24 year age group reported the highest number of cases, 455.5 per 100,000 followed by the 15-19 year age group, 332.2 cases per 100,000. This is a slight increase above 2000 rates for these two age groups.

Gonorrhea Incidence by District, Kentucky 2001



The highest reported incidence occurred in the Pennyrile District (185.2 cases per 100,000), followed by the North Central District (170.9 cases per 100,000).

District	Annual Incidence Rate
Purchase	79.8
Pennyrile	185.2
Green River	63.3
Barren River	90.2
Lincoln Trail	48.6
North Central	170.9
Northern Kentucky	63.7
Buffalo Trace	21.8
Gateway	14.5
Fivco	44.1
Big Sandy	9.3
Kentucky River	10.7
Cumberland Valley	16.8
Lake Cumberland	24.3
Bluegrass	90.8